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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

MIS
File Argentina
CTØ32A

Mr. Alexander Perry
President, The American
Chamber of Commerce in
Argentina
Buenos Aires, Argentina

August 2, 1978
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)
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Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☐ In Full)
(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade to) _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Dear Mr. Perry:

On behalf of the Secretary, Under Secretary Cooper and other U.S. Government officials, I am pleased to reply to your mailgram of July 20.

We want to assure you that we recognize the role organizations like your own play in the important area of export promotion. Expanded export effort is critical to the continued economic well-being of our country as expressed in our balance of payments, our competitive industrial plant and prosperous work force. The U.S. Government through its participation in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, through trade promotion efforts in its missions abroad and through special government programs such as the Export-Import Bank seeks to ensure that U.S. exporters will be able to compete on a world-wide basis.

Even in the area of commercial exports, however, there are other US policy goals that may sometimes conflict with the important goal of export promotion. This is particularly true in the area of US Government participation in financing or otherwise facilitating US exports to certain countries, such as Argentina, where we remain deeply concerned about human rights. The Argentine human rights situation is of such importance in our over-all relationship with that country that it must be an important factor in our decisions with respect to Argentina.

The US Government continues to keep the extent of its economic and commercial involvement with Argentina under review. We have held continuing and recent high level conversations with Argentine officials and they are aware of our great desire for improved relations and of the priority we attach to the observance of basic human trend in Argentina which would be reflected in our relationships.

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I hope these thoughts will be helpful to you in understanding our policy with respect to Argentina.

Sincerely,

Viron P. Vaky
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Inter-American
Affairs